Will America Fulfill Her Solemn Pledge To The Filipino People

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WILL *YOU* FOLLOW THEIR ADVICE?

George Washington: "Observe good faith and justice toward all Nations."

Daniel Webster: "No matter how easy may be the yoke of a foreign power, no matter how lightly it sits upon the shoulder, if it is not imposed by the voice of his own nation and of his own country, he will not, he cannot, and he means not to be happy under its burden."

Abraham Lincoln: "Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves, and under a just God cannot long retain it."

Thomas Jefferson: "The people of every country are the only safe guardians of their own rights."

Grover Cleveland: "The government of remote and alien people should have no permanent place in the purposes of our national life."

William McKinley: "The Philippines are ours not to subjugate, but to emancipate."

Wm. Howard Taft: "The Philippines are for the Filipinos."

Theodore Roosevelt: "* * * The time will come when it will be wise to take their own judgment as to whether they (the Filipinos) wish to continue their association with America or not. * * * If, after due time, the Filipinos decide that they do not wish to be thus governed, then I trust that we will leave."

Admiral Dewey: "In my opinion, these people (the Filipinos) are far superior in intelligence and more capable of self government than the natives of Cuba. I am familiar with both races." * * *

Woodrow Wilson: "Every people should be left free to determine its own policy, its own way of development, unhindered, unthreatened, unafraid, the little along with the great and powerful."

WHAT THE FILIPINOS SAY:

Dr. Jose P. Rizal, Martyred Hero, in His Farewell to His People: "Gladly do I go to expose myself to peril and to myself offer the example of which I have always preached. I hold duties of conscience above all else. Besides, I wish to show those who deny us patriotism that we know how to die for duty and principles. Whatever be my fate, I will die blessing my beloved country and wishing her the dawn of her redemption."

Mabini, the Brains of the Revolution Against Spain: "Thou shalt strive for the independence of thy country; for only thou canst have any real interest in her advancement and exaltation. Her independence constitutes thy only liberty; her advancement, thy perfection; and her exaltation, thy own glory and immortality.

"Thou shalt strive for a Republic and never for a Monarchy in thy country; for the latter exalts one or several families and founds a dynasty, while the former makes a people noble and worthy through reason, great through liberty, prosperous and brilliant through labor."

Emilio Aguinaldo, President of Philippine Republic, 1898-1901.

"I have kept the oath I made to the United States not to talk politics, but now that the Americans are asking the views of the Filipinos, I will reply: Our people are happy, contented and more prosperous than they ever dreamed of becoming as the result of American rule. The schools have taught them to think, and industries and commerce have shown them the rewards of work. Now we want the independence which was promised to us."

Sergio Osmena, Speaker of the House of Representatives:

Addressing Senor Gabaldon, said: "We urge you in your capacity as Resident Commissioner to the United States to tell the Congress and the people of that noble country that we who are gathered here today would prefer to be the lowest and humblest citizens of the Philippines with independence in our hands, than the leaders that we now are in our country under the tutelage of another country."

"Independence is the national ideal of the Filipino people. Agitation for it will never end until it is granted; therefore, early action is in the interest of both peoples. If we are granted our independence there never will be the slightest discrimination against American citizens and American business. They will have every protection accorded our own people and our own business."

Manuel L. Quezon, President of the Senate:

"The American promise of independence for the Philippines is not the exclusive patrimony of any political party. Both Republicans and Democrats are responsible for it. It is the policy of the American people."

Jaime C. de Veyra, Resident Commissioner to the United States:

"I wish to be careful to emphasize that the Filipino people have very friendly feelings toward the United States. We realize more than any one else that you have rendered us a great service in assisting us to prepare ourselves to take over the responsibilities that will come with independence. We are practically unanimous, however, in desiring a Philippine republic, and we desire it for precisely the same reasons that you Americans desire a republic."

Isauro Gabaldon, Resident Commissioner to the United States:

WHAT THE AMERICAN PRESS SAYS:

National Sincerity Not a Fiction: "* * * It will be in line with our traditions as well as our promises, to grant independence to the Filipinos. To do this will set a good example to imperialistic nations and prove to the world that national sincerity is not a fiction." * * *—Record, Seattle, Wash., February 18, 1920.

Not Ungrateful: "* * * The Filipino to date has shown rather unusual forbearance in the face of our delay in meeting his demand, or even considering it in the light of altered world conditions. He is not ungrateful for all that we have done for him, and speaks of us as a 'noble nation.'" * * *—Herald, Washington, D. C., April 25, 1920.

Liberty Bell: "Philippine independence is not a problem for the American people to solve. The question of independence for these islands has already been settled affirmatively in the minds of most of the American people. Independence Hall, with its Liberty Bell, would fall to the ground if we took any other view of the matter."—Times, Berkeley, Cal., February 23, 1920.

The Philippines for the Filipinos: "* * * But ultimately the principle laid down by President Taft when he was governor general, 'The Philippines for the Filipinos,' will be vindicated and they will take their place in the family of na-

tions."—Herald, Salt Lake City, Utah, April 27, 1920.

Independence for Philippines. "The people of the Philippine Islands should have their independence. Are we ready to play the role toward the Philippines that England plays for the retention of Ireland?"—Times, South Bend, Ind., December 11, 1920.

America Sincere. "We believe, really, in the policy of self-determination and the right of a people to control the conditions under which they live."—News Index, Evanston, Ill., December 9, 1920.

Don't Wait: "* * * Give the Filipinos their independence now when they are asking for it. Don't wait until we turn their patience into hatred. America has done a great thing for the Filipinos in releasing them from Spain and in helping them toward self-government. We believe these people appreciate this service by the United States. We should crown the service by making good on the promise to set them entirely free."—Republican, Plymouth, Ind., December 7, 1920.

United States Keeps Its Word: "* * * The solemn pledge of the United States has been given the Filipinos. This pledge will be kept surely as was the promise made to Cuba to respect its independence. The United States frequently adds proof to the well established fact that it keeps its word."—Star News, Pasadena, Cal., June 29, 1920.

"* * * It is inconsistent for Americans to boast of true liberalism and to prate about the right of independence of other peoples and then close their ears to the claims of people under its own flag. The giving of the Filipinos independence, even if they are clearly demonstrated to be capable of going it alone, will be hard enough because it is the history of the world that nations or people, once getting a grip on another's territory, hate to ever let go. We in America have our share that has that characteristic."—Times, Scranton, Pa., July 2, 1920.

Inconsistent:

"* * * The Philippine Islands are rich in resources, 'tis true, but the people who inhabit that country have as much right to guide their own destiny as this country did in running her own affairs when it threw off the yoke of the English oppression."—Wincham Leader, Fergus County, Montana, October 3, 1919.

Right to Guide Own Destiny:

"Somewhat belated is the action of the American Chamber of Commerce at Manila declaring in favor of territorial government for the Philippines under American sovereignty. * * * the position now taken by these commercial interests is a reversal of policy they have followed for years. They have been against any extension of home rule for the Philippines. They have opposed proposals for placing the islands under colonial rule or territorial government. They have urged rather that there be no concessions made to the Filipinos, who, they claimed, were unfit to participate to any large extent in conducting their own affairs. * * * No better evidence that the Filipinos are progressing rapidly in government ability could be given than the declaration of the American Chamber of Commerce that the natives are ready now for territorial government.

Pledged to Let Filipinos Go:

* * * We have pledged ourselves to let the Filipinos go if they so desire. * * * They should have the option of all choices—independence, territorial rule and becoming a dominion. It is not a fair test to us or them to confine them to two choices."—News, Newark, N. J., August 18, 1920.

Government Similar to Cuban Government: "* * * There are many who believe that the best interests of both the islands and this country would be served if they set up a government of their own, under our protection, similar to the Cuban government."—News, Shreveport, La., October 2, 1920.

Sacredly Promised: "* * * Every evidence seems to point to the fact that a stable government has been established in the Philippine Islands. The governor general of the islands, an American official, has officially certified to that fact, and his conclusions must be accepted as authoritative. The Jones Law, passed after we took possession of the islands, definitely promised the Filipinos their independence just as soon as they had established a stable government of their own. They now claim that that time has arrived. We have been in possession of the islands so long that we have begun to assume that they are ours of divine right, and that our authority over them ought not to be and cannot be questioned, forgetting that even in the flush of imperialism that swept over the country after the Spanish American war, we definitely and sacredly promised that we would withdraw from the islands as soon as we could be convinced that they could look out for themselves. * * *"—Herald, Miami, Fla., October 25, 1920.

Will Be Stronger in Orient Than We Are Now: "* * * No matter how well a subject people is treated, it still hankers after running its own affairs. * * * When we do turn the Philippines over to the

Filipinos we will be stronger in the Orient than we are now. * * *"—News, Hutchinson, Kan., November 17, 1920.

"* * * The Filipinos want their independence, and they are entitled to it exactly as the thirteen American colonies were entitled to their independence in 1776—because they wanted it. Of course, the United States is not misgoverning the Filipinos, nor is it oppressing them. The fact that a people desires independence is sufficient cause for giving it to them, particularly when that people is a distinct race, far separated geographically from the governing power. By all means, let us give the Filipinos their independence without tempting them to fight for it.'—Eagle, Wichita, Kansas, December 2, 1920.

Distinct Race:

"* * * Though the Filipinos now are our friends and are tractable and may remain so for a considerable period, a time will come when their plea for independence will be revised into a demand. A demand it cannot recognize and retain its self-respect. In such an event it would have to suppress a rebellion, and such a war would not enhance either the dignity or the self-respect of the United States. We might have an Ireland on our hands. And as the Filipinos hold they are well prepared for independence why not let them have it now and avoid prospective trouble?"—Press, Grand Rapids, Mich., December 1, 1920.

Let Them Have It Now:

For It:

"* * * As for granting independence to the Filipinos, we are heartily for it. * * *"—Chicago Tribune, December 9, 1920.

Preamble to the Jones Law August 29, 1916.

"* * * Whereas, it is, as it has always been, the purpose of the people of the United States to withdraw their sovereignty over the Philippine Islands and to recognize their independence as soon as a stable government can be established therein. * * *"

Official Statement of the Governor General of the Philippine Islands

"* * * In my opinion, during these two and a half years, the Filipinos, having been given an opportunity, have satisfactorily demonstrated the fact that they have already established and are maintaining the stable form of government which is prescribed in the preamble of the Jones Bill as a prerequisite to their independence."—Francis Burton Harrison, April 17, 1919.

From President Wilson's Last Annual Message to Congress:

"* * * Allow me to call your attention to the fact that the people of the Philippine Islands have succeeded in maintaining a stable government since the last action of the Congress in their behalf, and have thus fulfilled the condition set by the Congress as precedent to a consideration of granting independence to the islands.

> **"I respectfully submit that this condition precedent having been fulfilled, it is now our liberty and our duty to keep our promise to the people of those islands by granting them the independence which they so honorably covet."—December 8, 1920.**

SOME FACTS ABOUT THE PHILIPPINES

Population: The Filipino people number 10,350,640, of which 9,495,272 are Christians and only 9 per cent non-Christians.

Christians: They have been Christians for 300 years and have a culture and refinement that will compare very favorably with that of other nations.

English: English is taught exclusively in the Philippine public schools. Two million natives now speak English fluently, and there are 800,000 English-speaking children in the public schools. It is destined to be the national language.

Literacy: Seventy per cent of the inhabitants of the Philippines over ten years of age, according to a census just completed, are literate. This is a higher percentage of literacy than that of any South American country, higher than that of Spain, and higher than that of any of the new republics of Europe, whose independence is being guaranteed by the Allies.

Unanimous Desire for Independence: The Filipino people are unanimous in their desire for independence. Whenever they are called upon to deposit their ballots they have always ratified this aspiration. No candidate can be elected to any office whatsoever in the Philippines, no matter how rich he may be or how pleasing a personality he may possess, unless he makes a clear and frank statement to the electorate that he will work for immediate independence. Every session before adjournment representatives in the legislature go on record officially as desiring independence.

The Filipinos declare they have no grudge or grievance against the American people. Their appeal is accompanied by a message of friendship and gratitude for all that America has done for them. They point out that Uncle Sam gave independence to Cuba, and they hope that they, too, will receive that boon, without which, they declare, no civilized and patriotic people can enjoy the maximum of happiness and self-respect.

Filipinos Are Grateful to U. S.

On October 16, 1917, the date of its opening session, the Philippine Legislature by joint resolution pledged its loyalty and support to the United States, sending the following message to the President:

"The Philippine Legislature deems it a duty incumbent upon it to voice the unequivocal expression of the loyalty of the people of these islands to the cause of the United States of America in the present war and in this solemn manner to ratify and transmit the same to the American people. We realize that in this war there are being tried in the balance the greatest principles of humanity and right which in future will be the foundation of the stability, peace, and security of all nations, whether they be great or small, or belong to one race or another.

"Our loyalty to the cause is based on the evident justice of the enforced intervention of the American people in this war, in which they have been guided solely by the supreme interest of defending universal democracy and upholding the right of small nations to live in confidence and security under their own governments, safe from the threats and perils of autocracy and imperialism.

Loyalty of the Filipino People in the World War:

"We firmly believe that the final triumph of democracy, in securing for the world the principle of nationality for the benefit of the small nations, will, finally, enable our people to at-

tain the ideals for which we have struggled, namely, our constitution into a free and independent nation, with a democratic government of law and order, ready to be another instrument of democracy and universal progress."

First Christian Republic in East: The raising of the Philippine Flag over the First Christian Republic in the East, will go down through the ages as a monument to the glory and altruism of the American People.

Greatest Example of International Square Dealing in History: The plea of the Filipinos should not be frustrated. The granting of Philippine Independence will be the greatest example of international square dealing in history. The sooner it is granted, the better it is for democracy's processes; the better for the cause of weaker states throughout the world; the better also for that new type of colonization which was staged by America through the might and valor of her valiant sons who followed the Stars and Stripes on many a battlefield, and who died in the faith that the world would thereafter witness a better day.

Gratitude: "Gratitude (says the Philippine Legislature) shall be the fundamental factor in the future relations between America and the Philippines."

DON'T THROW THIS AWAY. PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND.

(Additional copies may be obtained from the Philippine Press Bureau, 551 Munsey Building, Washington, D. C.)

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